

Application Summary Sheet

Form A

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON THE ARTS

Applicant: **Central Arizona College**

Project Dir.: Leslie Wootten

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Application Number: **306-05**

Category: **LITERATURE**

Project Title: Visiting Writers Series

Discipline: 14

Project Discipline: 10A

Activity Type: 05

Legislative Dist: 023

Congressional Dist: 001

Address: 8470 N. Overfield Rd. , Coolidge, AZ 85228

County: Pinal

Authorizing Official: Terri Ackland

Applied Last Year: **Yes**

REQUEST

Total ACA Grant Requested: \$1,000

Grant Amount Recommended: \$750

Previous Years Funded: ☒ FY2004

☐ FY2003

☐ FY2002

Rank: M+

Other applications from this organization:

Supplemental Materials: ☐ Slides ☐ CDs/Tapes ☐ Season Brochure ☐ Other:
☐ Photos ☐ Video ☐ News Clippings

Panel Comments:

Central Arizona College, 306-05, Visiting Writers Series

Strengths:

F - Nice fit for reaching the underserved rural communities

F - Only the second year of the project

F - Young history. But did well last year.

J - Good well-established writers

J - Budget seems appropriate.

J - Delighted that they are serving this community. Hope to see them grow

J - Duarte a strong fit for reaching the Hispanic community

J - Comfortable with director's background

Weaknesses:

F - Unclear how many students in the workshop?

F - Why no budget for advertising and materials

J - Would like to see a different group of writers other than the usual suspects

Applicant Name: Central Arizona College
Contact Person: Leslie Wootten 520-426-4363
Project Title: Visiting Writers Series
Project Dates: September 1, 2004-May 30, 2005
Project Summary: The Visiting Writers Series will host two literary workshops and readings.

I. Artistic Quality and Creativity of the Project

The mission of Central Arizona College (CAC) is to “serve the people of Pinal County with an open door concept that provides access to educational opportunities for people with diverse interests, talents, abilities, ages, cultural backgrounds, and ethnic views.” The proposed Visiting Writers Series is designed to serve the College’s mission by hosting high-quality writers of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds who will share their writing expertise. The writers will direct one hour writing workshops in addition to formally reading from their own work, thus providing unique educational opportunities not readily available for CAC students and citizens of surrounding communities. Grant funds from the Arizona Commission on the Arts (ACA) will be matched by funds from CAC to provide stipends for the visiting writers. All events are open and free to the public. This is the second year for CAC’s Visiting Writers Series, and it is a program that is very much needed—and appreciated—in a rural environment such as ours. With a main campus—Signal Peak—in Coolidge and satellite campuses in Winkelman and Apache Junction, Central Arizona College is a unifying hub for Pinal County’s outlying areas, serving a wide range of small, remote rural towns that do not have easy access to cultural activities offered in the metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Tucson. Some of the towns served by Signal Peak’s campus are Arizona City, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Eloy, Florence, Maricopa, and Stanfield. The College’s Signal Peak Campus in Coolidge will host the Series due to its central location and abundance of spacious facilities and parking.

In the second year of the Visiting Writers Series, funds continue to be limited. Consequently, the decision has been made to opt for quality over quantity, featuring two writers of high-caliber literary merit: Stella Pope Duarte and Melissa Pritchard. Last year’s successful inaugural Series featured Ron Carlson and Alberto Ríos. Attendance was excellent with all fifty seats filled. This year’s goal is to once again fill every seat. To accomplish this, the Series Coordinator researched writers who have recently published important work, networking with colleagues and coordinators of other literary projects to make selections. Pope Duarte, a high school counselor as well as an award-winning author, is an Arizona native of Hispanic heritage, born and raised in la Sonorita barrio in South Phoenix. Her writing explores the challenges of growing up on the geographical and emotional border between two cultures. Since many CAC students and members of the surrounding communities have experienced such dualism in their own lives, Pope Duarte’s insight should be informative and enlightening. She has had two books published: *Fragile Night*, a collection of stories, and *Let Their Spirits Dance*, a novel. Melissa Pritchard teaches creative writing at Arizona State University, where she also directs the Creative Writing Program. Recipient of many literary awards, Pritchard has authored three published story collections and three novels. While her writing often centers on women and the myriad challenges they face in a complex world, it simultaneously transcends gender, speaking to people of all ages and cultures. Her most recent book is a novel, *Late Bloomer*.

CAC supports the arts in a variety of ways beyond the traditional classroom. For example, it sponsors an excellently attended “Arts in the Desert” program, now in its 28th year, that features musical and dramatic performances. There is also a visual arts program—the “Visual Arts Gallery”—that showcases community artists and their work. The Visiting Writers Series offers an expanded, complementary, dimension to these established artistic venues.

II. Ability of the Project to Serve the Needs of the Community

Our Visiting Writers Series will serve the nearby towns of Arizona City, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Eloy, Florence, Maricopa, and Stanfield. People from the communities surrounding our satellite campuses in Winkelman and Apache Junction may travel to the events, as well. Pinal County has a population of over 190,000, and the population is increasing by leaps and bounds. Over 27,000 people reside in Casa Grande, the largest town served by CAC's Signal Peak Campus where the Series will be held. While Apache Junction is relatively close to cultural opportunities in the greater Phoenix area, Casa Grande and many other towns in Pinal County are not so conveniently located. In fact, people must typically travel at least an hour to Phoenix or Tucson to attend special events involving the literary arts. The Visiting Writers Series will alleviate this lack, filling a much needed niche for writers and literature lovers across the county.

Pinal County's ethnic population is similar to that of CAC, comprised of 53% Anglo, 32% Hispanic, 10% Native American, 3% African-American, and 2% other. Due to its significant Hispanic population, CAC has been designated a Title V "Hispanic-serving" institution. The large Hispanic population of the college and outlying communities is one of many reasons we selected Stella Pope Duarte to be on the schedule this year. Attendance at the workshops and readings is expected to hover around 80. Increased attendance is quite possible due to the literary merit and popularity of Pope Duarte and Pritchard. Total attendance for our 2004-05 season, then, can reasonably be expected to meet or exceed 150 people.

CAC is continually building—and strengthening—bonds with the community. In addition to the "Arts in the Desert" program, the College hosts a Public Forum Series and Senior Fair, both of which welcome and encourage community participation. In addition, the College hosts a Toastmaster's chapter and offers a Speaker's Bureau that includes a host of experts available to speak at community events on numerous topics. Faculty members personally strengthen community bonds, as well, by volunteering in the community in various capacities. For example, English faculty have served as facilitators for book discussion groups at area libraries and conducted writing workshops at senior centers. The Visiting Writers Series is yet another way for CAC to fortify links with surrounding communities. To this end, we are seeking to expand and deepen meaningful bonds that have already been established in different ways.

Feedback about the Series will be solicited by the Coordinator, both in informal conversation and in gatherings of interested parties. Recommendations from faculty and students will be encouraged. Workshop participants will be asked to reflect on—and evaluate—their experiences, focusing on what they learned about writing and how they intend to apply knowledge gained from the workshop sessions and readings.

Promotion for the Visiting Writers Series will occur in several ways: press releases will be submitted to local media outlets for announcement and/or publication; flyers will be posted on the CAC campus as well as at community schools and businesses; workshops and speaking engagements will be posted on the Signal Peak marquee at the College entrance; invitations will be sent to CAC faculty, administrators, staff, local art organizations, libraries, high schools, and other interested groups.

III. Managerial/Administrative Ability of the Applicant Organization to Complete the Program

The Volunteer Coordinator of the Visiting Writers Series is Leslie Wootten, a former English faculty of CAC's Division of Communications. Ms. Wootten holds an M.A. in English and M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Arizona State University. She is a published writer who has taught composition at CAC, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, and Arizona State University. She has conducted creative

writing workshops in urban as well as rural communities in Arizona.

Success of the Series will be assessed by attendance and active participation, as well as verbal and written feedback provided by those who are present at workshops and readings. Increased student enrollment in creative writing courses and more students declaring English majors will signal positive response, as well. The Coordinator, with her strong interest and experience in literary arts, will do everything possible to help the Series continue to flourish and expand at CAC.

IV. History of the Organization in Presenting, Producing, or Serving the Arts

Founded in 1969, Central Arizona College has been an important educational force in Pinal County for over 30 years. Among the specific functions defined in the College's mission statement is the mandate to "meet the ... cultural ... needs of the community and individuals." Certainly, CAC is a cultural hub of the region, and the Visiting Writers Series further enhances that essential, and important, role.

Communities around Central Arizona College are unfortunately stressed economically, and the arts all too often fall into the out-of-reach realm. The Visiting Writers Series is meant to remedy that lack by offering students and community members—especially those in rural areas—something they want, but cannot always attain without traveling long distances at substantial expense. What we learned from the inaugural Visiting Writers Series was that people will come. When all fifty seats in a room are filled with students as well as community members of all ages and varying cultures, you know you are on the right track. Filling seats, however, is not the only mark of success. Verbal and written comments such as, "This was really a good program," "I never got bored," "Thought provoking, inspirational," "Intriguing," and "It was perfect," reflect how well the Series was received. This program clearly brings a refreshing facet of literary arts up close, establishing hands-on opportunities for writers and those who appreciate literature to experience what has too often been a distant, unfulfilled, wish.

Section IV Attachment: Previous, Current, and Projected Years' Visiting Writers

2003-2004

Alberto Ríos, poet, short story writer, memoirist
Ron Carlson, short story writer and novelist

2004-2005

Stella Pope Duarte, short story writer and novelist
Melissa Pritchard, short story writer and novelist

Project Budget

Outline below the budget for the specific project described in this application. Itemize expenses in each category. Refer to the Glossary for explanation of terms. Please round numbers to the nearest dollar. *This form automatically calculates totals; the "0"s will change to totals once you've entered your figures. Tab through entire form to get accurate totals.*

EXPENSES

Expenses (cash only)

Salaried Personnel/Staff	
a) Administrative # of staff	\$ _____
b) Artistic # of staff	\$ _____
c) Technical/Prod # of staff	\$ _____
2. Contracted Services	
a) Artists	\$ <u>2000</u>
<u>Melissa Pritchard</u>	
<u>Stella Pope Duarte</u>	

b) Consultants/Other Experts	
	\$ _____

3. Production Expenses	
	\$ _____

4. Space Rental	
	\$ _____

5. Travel	
	\$ _____

6. Marketing/Promotion	
	\$ _____

7. Remaining Operating Expenses	
	\$ _____

8. Total Cash Expenses	
(Total Items 1 thru 7)	\$ <u>0 2000</u>

Cash Income
(Revenue + Support)
Revenue (earned income - cash only)

9. Admissions	\$ _____

10. Contracted Services	\$ _____

11. Other Revenue	\$ _____

Support (contributed income)	
12. Corporate Contributions	\$ _____

13. Foundation Grants	\$ _____

14. Other Private Contributions	\$ _____
Government Support	
a) Federal	\$ _____
b) Regional	\$ _____
c) State (do not include this request)	\$ _____
d) County	\$ _____
e) City	\$ _____
Total Government Support	\$ <u>0</u>
16. Applicant Cash	\$ <u>1000</u>
17. Cash Income <u>Without Grant</u>	\$ <u>0 1000</u>
(Total items 9 thru 16)	
18. Grant Amount Request	\$ <u>1000</u>
19. Total Cash Income	\$ <u>0 2000</u>
(Total Items 17 and 18)	

NOTE: CASH EXPENSES MUST EQUAL CASH INCOME